

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for detecting a plurality of environmental conditions comprising:

a housing unit containing at least one sensor selected from a group consisting of a temperature sensor, and a light sensor;

a memory storage device disposed in said housing unit;

a circuit board electrically connected to said at least one sensor and the memory storage device, and contained within the housing unit; and

at least one moisture probe physically connected to the housing unit, and electrically connected to the circuit board.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said at least one sensor includes a sunlight intensity sensor and a temperature sensor.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the housing unit further comprises an accessible compartment providing access to the memory storage device.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the memory storage device interfaces with the circuit board through a universal serial bus (USB).

5. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a global positioning satellite (GPS) system which provides geographic information.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the light sensor is an ultraviolet sensor and the temperature sensor is a thermometer.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a battery in the housing unit.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising a battery charger connectable to said housing unit to recharge the battery.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising at least one solar cell for recharging the battery.

10. A method of determining vegetation capable of thriving in a plurality of environmental conditions, comprising the steps of:

sensing the plurality of environmental conditions with an environment detection apparatus;

storing the plurality of environmental conditions on a memory storage device; and

downloading the plurality of environmental conditions to a database, wherein the database displays a list of vegetation capable of surviving in the plurality of stored environmental conditions.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the plurality of environmental conditions comprises a geographic location, a sunlight intensity reading, a date and time reading, a temperature reading, and a moisture reading.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein at least one ultraviolet sensor determines the sunlight intensity reading, and at least one moisture probe determines the moisture reading.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein a global positioning satellite system determines the geographic location, the date and time reading, and the temperature reading.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the user manually inputs the geographic location into the database, a timer determines the date and time reading, and a thermometer determines the temperature reading.

15. A control system for using an environment detection apparatus as an activation device for a sprinkler system comprising:

at least one sensor determining at least one environmental condition;

at least one logical operation producing an output to an actuator based on the at least one environmental condition; and

the actuator activating the sprinkler system based on the output of the at least one logical operation.

16. The control system of claim 15 wherein the at least one environmental condition is a sunlight intensity reading.

17. The control system of claim 16 wherein at least one ultraviolet sensor determines the sunlight intensity reading.

18. The control system of claim 15 wherein the at least one environmental condition is a moisture reading.

19. The control system of claim 18 wherein a moisture probe determines the moisture reading.

20. The control system of claim 15 wherein the at least one environmental condition is a weather forecast which is read from a remote device.